actual expenditures exceeding the quantum of grants-in-aid, arrears accrue and are required to be reimbursed by the Central Government. Based on the expenditure reports received so far from the States, an amount of Rs. 397.60 crores has become payable to the States as arrears upto the period ending March, 1991.

During the year 1990-91 a special allocation of Rs. 100 crores was released to the States towards part settlement of the arrears. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked in the Annual Plan of the current year for this purpose. Efforts ae being made to have the Plan allocations of the Family Welfare sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan increased to meet the full requirement of funds for the State and Union Territories, so as to clear the arrears and prevent further accumulation thereof.

Expansion of Mormugao Port

*239. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated by Government for the expansion of Mormugao Port; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the draft Annual Plan 1992-93, important schemes like Construction of Additional Cargo berth No. 11, construction of new Additional berth, procurement of container handling equipment and acquisition of fire fighting equipment are included.

Apathy of Medical Staff in Hospitals

*240. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing apathy, neglect and rude behaviour of the medical staff including Doctors and Nurses in the hospitals in Delhi and other parts of the country which are generally visited by the poor patients; and

(b) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take to tackle the problem and make them more humane towards poor patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) It would not be correct to make a generalised statement that there is growing apathy, neglect and rude behaviour of medical staff including doctors and nurses. By and large, the medical staff in Government Hospitals has been rendering satisfactory services to all patients, including poor, notwithstanding the great increase on the demand of such services in the tertiary level institutions in Delhi and elsewhere. Whenever any complaint of apathy/neglect/rude behaviour comes to notice, due action is taken.

Indian Strategy for UNCED Meeting

@1783. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 2-day meeting of Ministers of SAARC countries was held in the Capital early last month to formulate a common South Asian strategy for the forthcoming UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil and also discuss region environmental problems in the wake of the conclusion

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 532, transferred from the 4th May, 1992.

of the 4th and final round of the meeting of preparatory committee of UNCED held in USA earlier;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the strategy finalised by India after mobilising both G-77 nations and sympathetic industrialised nations to oppose any move by the industrialised West to use Trade Policy as weapon or instrument for global environment management or to introduce any new conditionalities on account of environmental considerations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A Conference of SAARC Environment Ministers was held at New Delhi on April 8-9, 1992 to deliberate upon the issues related to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

(b) A copy of the Joint Communique issued at the end of the deliberations is placed in Parliament Library for kind perusal of Hon'ble Members.

(c) The G-77 nations, including India, are of the view that the developed countries should not attempt to impose unilateral restrictions on international trade, in particular on natural resources and products thereof on environmental grounds, or to any new conditionalities on account of environmental considerations.

Environmental Pollution

1784. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is large scale open-cast mining in the coal fields of upper Assam which are causing wide-spread environmental pollution and wanton destruction of paddy fields;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the same;

(c) whether Government have discussed this matter with the Ministry of Coal; and

(d) if so, what is their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Based on the represenations received from various groups and organisations, this Ministry had constituted an Expert Committee in 1988 to examine the environmental implications of open-cast mining projects of Coal India Limited near Patkai and Namsik Hills in Assam. The Committee submitted its report in March, 1989. Consequently the matter was taken up with the Department of Coal and Coal India Limited and open-cast mining operations at Tikak mines were stopped from April, 1990. Also mitigative measures for pollution control and restoration of the degraded areas due to mining have been suggested.

Global Environment Facility

1785. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group of 77 (G-77) developing countries has recently demanded a firm commitment from the developed countries on the management of the GEF (Global Environment Facility);

(b) whether there was also a proposal for the third World Environment Project Fund; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?